



THE SPARKLER

Issue 2

July 2007

SPARC Celebrates Together with Stroller Fit Moms!

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“BBQ Day!”

Jonathan cooks up some hot-dogs for the crowd at Southgate! Celebrating with friends; our favorite pastime at SPARC!



Stroller Fit and SPARC

SPARC club members said a summer farewell to our dear friends and exercise partners, Stroller Fit.

Our summer bbq, prepared by our club members had the Southgate Community Center smelling fantastic!

SPARC has had many happy occasions celebrating with our friends in the community center.

Stroller Fit invited SPARC to their Mother’s Day party . It was a

great time for young toddlers and young adults too!

SPARC club members had several adapted activities to entertain the little ones (the switch adapted bubble machine was a big hit!) Club member Ryan Cotnoir entertained the Stroller Fit youngsters with a beach ball game. Ryan is studying to become a preschool teaching assistant and enjoys any opportunity to work with young children at the community center!



Bubbles from Claudia to the Stroller Fit toddlers



Ryan; future teacher !

Til We Meet Again in the Fall....



SPARC Visits The Arc of Northern Virginia!

SPARC tested the limits of accessibility at the new visitor center of The Arc of NOVA! SPARC (all 22 of us!) brought a “housewarming” gift to our friends. SPARC left a message with The Arc of NoVa in our “Forget-Me-Not” potted plant. We know The Arc of NoVa works everyday for “a life like yours” for all of us. We want our community to know as young adults we have much to contribute.

We heard from Jill Egle, advocate leader, and The Arc staff emphasizing how important it is for community-based services to create the life we all want. After lots of laughter SPARC went next door to Applebee’s and kept the kitchen hopping! We thank Nancy and all the staff for a great visit!



Upcoming Fundraiser— Ice Cream You Scream!

The invitations are just out for the first SPARC fundraiser—An Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social. Many thanks to Marylou Cotnoir for all her energy and dedication in planning our first event. The Cotnoir family will be hosting the event at their home July 28th.

The “invitation only” event is designed to kick off our SPARC Gifting/Giving Pledge Program and identify more friends in the community that would like to help us reach our club goals. We are asking each SPARC family and board member to reach out to specific people in the community to share

all we’ve begun and The Way Ahead !

We are looking to increase our circle of supporters and build new relationships with community partners who want to invest in our extraordinary young adults and help us serve our waiting list!

Meet Club Member Adam....

A name is drawn for the featured “Sparkle”. Then three names were drawn to select the club member interviewers. Here’s Ellen, Yancy and Ryan as this month’s reporters interviewing Adam!

(Q) How did you get interested in sports?

(A) When I was about 10, I was playing Challenger baseball, which is adapted baseball. A buddy helps you throw, catch and hit the ball.

(Q) How old are you?

(A) I am 24 years old. I was born Feb 28, 1983. I was born at

Alexandria hospital 3 months early and weighed 2lbs. 11oz.

(Q) What are your interests?

(A) Sports, news, politics, news coverage on natural disasters, MTV, and listening to music.

(Q) Where have you been to school?

Meet Adam (continued)

(A) Bush Hill Elem, Holmes Middle, Falls Church HS, and recently from George Mason University in 2007.

(Q) Do you like animals?

(A) Yes, I like cats. I have a dog, a miniature dachshund (a wiener dog) named Kenya. I don't like her because she is too small and my mom holds her all the time. I want to one d

day get a helper cat o well, actually I want a helper monkey! I would feed him bananas.

(Q) Do you have any career goals?

(A) I do currently work for the Connector newspaper for Centreville, Chantilly and Clifton. I write human interest articles. Some day I want to be a sports journalist.



Adam (second from right) with friends at the SPARC summer bbq

BUSINESS MATTERS.....

SPARC is a 501 (c) 3 corporation that began operating November 2, 2006. SPARC is fortunate to have the generous support of Community Recreation Services as we work toward financial sustainability. The ancillary support we receive from CRS is vital to our being here! We began with four 4 club members and now support 12 club members!!

Our county partners have tremendous interest in seeing SPARC succeed. The Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC) endorsed SPARC as one viable solution for the un-served young adults identified years ago when the Council began building a strategic plan for the Board of Supervisors.

SPARC begins its new fiscal year July 1, 2007. We have an annual

budget this coming year (Jul 1, 2007 – Jun 30, 2008) of \$189,300.00 This budget includes salaries, taxes, insurance, and administrative costs. At our current membership level, the cost of doing business per club member is \$105.16 per day.

To date we have a contract beginning on July 1, 2007 for \$44,144.00.

We have approximately \$1,600.00 from donations in the SPARC bank account.

The county continues to provide generous ancillary support to SPARC through the early growth and development period WE NEED TO WORK AS A TEAM TO FUND OUR BUDGET!

We are scheduled to expand operations to 3 days per week beginning in September. We will continue to pursue funding through county income opportunities like

CC-FAC, SPARC's gifting/giving programs, special events, and grant writing. We are not qualified to be a Medicaid provider. Our plan needs to be securing public and corporate partners to see our program succeed.

As we discussed at our Family and Friends night an activity fee for SPARC participants will be implemented Aug 1, 2007. The activity fee of \$50.00 per month per participant will support art therapy, music therapy and the purchase of various sundries to perform club activities. This activity fee will not replace the opportunity for club members to contribute to "The Sparcle Jar". This activity fee will not cover personal costs for community trips, such as bowling, restaurants, shopping trips etc.

We have accomplished so much together, and together we can meet the challenges ahead.

I am confident that SPARC will continue to be "The Best Club in Northern Virginia Supporting Young Adults with Life-long Disabilities" !!